

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad comprising:
digit protective means for protecting ~~to the~~ fingers of a user from jamming, said digit
protective means sized and positioned such that, when installed on a hand, all four fingers of the
hand can curl around and grasp the digit protective means,
palm and wrist protective means for protecting substantially the entire palmar surface of
the palm and wrist of a user from abrasion and hyper-extension,
digit engagement means for attaching said finger, palm and wrist protective pad to the
fingers of a user's hand,
wrist engagement means for attaching said finger palm and wrist protective pad to the
wrist of a user, and
first securing means for securing said wrist engagement means to said palm and wrist
protective means, and
second securing means for securing said wrist engagement means in a closed state.

2. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist
protective pad, as defined in claim 1, wherein:

 said palm and wrist protective means comprises a pad having a first side for facing away
from the palm of a wearer and a second side for facing toward the palm of a wearer, a digit end
and a wrist end, said pad formed to substantially conform to the shape of a human palm and

wrist, and

 said digit protective means comprises a dowel, said dowel being enclosed in a sleeve formed in said digit end of said leather pad, said sleeve being formed by said pad being rolled such that said first side is exterior said roll and said digit end is attached to said pad along a line proximate said digit end of said pad.

3. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2, wherein said pad is formed of leather.

4. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 3, wherein said dowel further comprises a foam dowel.

5. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2 [[4]] wherein said digit end of said leather pad is permanently attached to a portion of said first side of said leather pad, thereby forming said sleeve.

6. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 2, wherein said palm and wrist protective means further comprises a foam pad attached to said second side of said leather pad proximate said wrist end of said leather pad.

7. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 6, wherein said foam pad is permanently attached to said leather pad.

8. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 6, wherein said digit engagement means comprises a loop of material attached to said sleeve at a point on said sleeve substantially opposite said line of attachment of said sleeve digit end of said pad to said first side of said pad, said loop adapted to slide over at least one finger of a user's hand to surround said at least one finger near to where said at least one finger joins the palm of the user's hand.

9. (ORIGINAL) A athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 8, wherein said loop is of an elastic material, thereby facilitating easy entrance of the fingers of a user's hand entering said loop.

10. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 8, wherein said wrist engagement means comprises a strap, said strap attached to said first side of said leather pad by said first securing means, transverse said leather pad, proximate said wrist end of said leather pad, said strap having a first side and a second side, a first end and a second end, said first securing means comprising means for enabling said strap to be removably attached to said pad at any of a plurality of distances from said dowel, thereby allowing adjustability of said finger, palm and wrist protective pad to be sized to fit a particular palm length of a user .

11. (ORIGINAL) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10, wherein said strap is formed of leather.

12.(NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein said first securing means comprises hook and loop fastener, a first of said hook and loop fastener elements being affixed to said first side of said leather pad and a second of said hook and loop fastener elements being affixed to the second side ~~interior~~ of said wrist strap.

13. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 10, wherein said second securing means comprises a buckle attached at said first end of said strap.

14. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 13, wherein said buckle is formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of metal and plastic.

15. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad, as defined in claim 14, wherein said second securing means further comprises hook and loop fastener attached to said first side of said strap, said hook fastener attached proximate said leather pad one of said ends of said strap and said loop fastener attached proximate the other of said ends said second end of said strap, such that, after passing ~~th~~ rough through said buckle, said strap is secured by attaching said loop fastener ~~and~~ to said hook fastener.

16. (NEWLY AMENDED) An athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad comprising:

a leather pad having a first side for facing away from the palm of a wearer and a second side for facing toward the palm of a wearer, a digit end and a wrist end, said pad formed to substantially conform to the shape of a human palm and wrist and sized and shaped to cover substantially the entire palmar surface of a wearer's palm and wrist,

said digit end of said leather pad being rolled such that said first side is exterior said roll and said digit end is permanently attached to a portion of said first side of said leather pad along a line proximate said digit end of said leather pad, thereby forming a sleeve, and

a foam dowel, said dowel housed within said sleeve formed in said leather pad, said foam dowel and said sleeve forming a rounded forward edge of said leather pad, said dowel and sleeve sized and positioned such that, when installed on a hand, all four fingers of the hand can curl around and grasp the sleeve enclosed dowel, and

a foam pad attached to said second side of said leather pad proximate said wrist end of said leather pad;

a loop of elastic material attached to said sleeve at a point on said sleeve opposite said line of attachment of said sleeve digit end of said pad to said first side of said pad, said loop adapted to slide over at least one finger of a user's hand; and

a wrist strap, said wrist strap attached to said first side of said leather pad, transverse said leather pad, proximate said wrist end of said leather pad, said strap having a first side and a second side, a first end and a second end, said wrist strap being moveably removably attached to said leather pad at any of a variety of distances from said dowel by hook and eye loop fastener,

a buckle attached at said first end of said strap, and

hook and loop fastener attached to said first side of said strap, said hook fastener attached

proximate said leather pad one of said ends of said strap and said loop fastener attached proximate the other of said ends ~~said second end~~ of said strap, such that, after passing through said buckle, said strap is secured by attaching said loop fastener ~~and~~ to said hook fastener;

wherein, when said athletic finger, palm and wrist protective pad is in use:

 said leather pad provides being adapted to provide protection against abrasion to a user's hands from contact with the ground and hyper-extension of the wrist during a slide with hands extended, ~~and~~

 said foam dowel and said sleeve provide being adapted to provide additional padding and a rounded edge graspable by the fingers of a player, thereby preventing jamming of the fingers, abrasions and bruising and the entry of debris under a leading edge of said leather pad during a slide,

 said elastic loop secures being adapted to secure said pad around the fingers of a user's hand,

 said wrist strap secures adapted to secure said pad around the wrist of a user, and
 said removable attachment of said wrist strap to said leather pad provides providing adjustment of a distance between said foam dowel and said wrist strap, thereby allowing compensation for differing palm lengths of different users.